

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /068 W

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R 170825Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2862

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 16795

FOLLOWING TEL SENT NEW DELHI INFO KATHMANDU FROM CALCUTTA
DEC 16, 1975, REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 2980

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN, SK

SUBJ: CHOGYAL OF SIKKIM

REF: CALCUTTA 2943 AND PREVIOUS

1. KARMA THOPDEN, SIKKIM TRADING COMMISSION, CALLED ON CONOFF ON
DEC 15 TO ARRANGE TOURIST VISAS FOR DISTANT RELATIVE OF CHOGYAL.
AS HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THOPDEN WAS FORMERLY THE
CHOGYAL'S INTELLIGENCE OFFICER UNTIL HE (THOPDEN) WAS FORCED OUT
BY THE GOI AND GIVEN HIS PRESENT POSITION WITH THE STATE TRADING
COMMISSION. HOWEVER, THOPDEN REMAINS IN CONTACT WITH THE CHOGYAL
THROUGH HIS WIFE, A BRITISH SUBJECT, WHO SEES THE CHOGYAL FRE-
QUENTLY. DURING THE VISIT THOPDEN VOLUNTEERED THE FOLLOWING.

2. THE CHOGYAL RETURNED TO GANTOK ON DECEMBER 13, AFTER SEVEN
DAY VISIT TO CALCUTTA FOR DENTAL AND MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS (SEE
REFTEL). THOPDEN CONFIRMED THE CHOGYAL HAND WAS FRACTURED WHILE
PLAYING SOCCER BUT SAID THAT OTHERWISE HE IS IN GOOD HEALTH AND
SPIRITS.

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3. THOPDEN SAID HIS WIFE WAS GIVEN AN ACCOUNT BY CHOGYAL OF HIS

CONVERSATION WITH PRIMIN GANDHI DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO SIKKIM IN NOVEMBER. THE CONVERSATION WAS STRAINED AND MRS. GANDHI NOTED THAT MANY HEADS OF MONARCHIES HAD RECENTLY BEEN DEPOSED AND HAD NOTHING TO LIVE ON WHEN THEY COULD NOT RPT NOT ACCOMODATE THEMSELVES TO POLITICAL REALITIES. SHE ASKED CHOGYAL TO "ASSENT" TO THE RECENT INCORPORATION OF SIKKIM INTO THE UNION OF INDIA. IN RETURN HE COULD BE ASSURED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. (THOPDEN NOTED THAT THE CHOGYAL HAS HAD ALL HIS FUNDS CUT OFF SINCE SIKKIM'S INCORPORATION INTO INDIA IN JUNE 1975.) THE CHOGYAL IS REPORTED NOT RPT NOT TO HAVE DECIDED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER REGARDING GIVING HIS "ASSENT" BUT THOPDEN COMMENTED THAT CHOGYAL'S PERSONAL FINANCES WERE VERY LOW AND EVENTUALLY HE MIGHT HAVE TO. ACCORDING TO THOPDEN, MRS. GANDHI COMMENTED THAT THE CHOGYAL HAD MET AN AMERICAN GIRL ON HIS OCTOBER TRIP TO CALCUTTA AND WARNED HIM AGAINST CONTINUING HIS CONTACTS WITH THE CIA AND BEING A "TROUBLE MAKER". THE CHOGYAL DENIED ANY CONTACTS WITH THE CIA MENTIONING HOW CLOSELY HE WAS "BEING PROTECTED." (AN AMERICAN WOMAN, ABOUT 45 YEARS OF AGE TOLD CONOFF IN OCTOBER WHILE VISITING THE CONSULAR SECTION THAT SHE WAS GOING TO MEET THE CHOGYAL. THIS MAY OR MAY NOT BE THE PERSON IN QUESTION. WE DO NOT HAVE HER NAME.)

4. COMMENT: WE WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT THOPDEN IS OUR ONLY SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON SIKKIM AND WE HAVE NO WAY IN WHICH TO VERIFY WHAT HE PASSES ON TO O'NEILL. WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT ALL CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT HIS INITIATIVE IN THE CONSULATE GENERAL DURING HIS CALLS HERE ON CONSULAR BUSINESS.
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